

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

June 2010 – Week 1

Air Date: June 6 – June 12 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: LOST IN TRANSLATION

JUNE 1901 AND BAD SPANISH KILLS A MAN.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 12, 1901. KENEDY. GREGORIO CORTEZ HAS GOT IT GOOD. SOME LAND TO FARM, A WIFE, FOUR KIDS, AND A GOOD REPUTATION.

TODAY, AS HE LIES ON HIS PORCH, SHERIFF BRACK MORRIS AND HIS DEPUTY PULL UP, LOOKING FOR HORSE THIEVES. WITH HIS DEPUTY TRANSLATING, THE SHERIFF QUESTIONS GREGORIO, THEN MOVES TO ARREST HIM.

GREGORIO SAYS HE'S INNOCENT. BUT DUE TO A BAD TRANSLATION, MORRIS TAKES IT AS A THREAT, PULLS HIS GUN AND SHOOTS. GREGORIO FIRES BACK, KILLS THE SHERIFF THEN FLEES.

AFTER A MASSIVE 10 DAY MANHUNT, GREGORIO IS CAUGHT. SENT TO PRISON FOR LIFE, HE BECOMES A CHICANO HERO AND GETS A GOVERNOR'S PARDON IN 1913. TODAY, HIS STORY LIVES ON IN BALLADS, BOOKS, AND FILM.

BAD SPANISH CREATED A LEGEND 109 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

HANDBOOK OF TEXAS – GREGORIO CORTEZ

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/CC/fco94.html>

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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